

I am concerned about the proposed broadcast flag. in my view this regulation would too much power in the hands of content providers yet have a negligible affect on piracy.

The broadcast flag in its proposed form would allow content providers to dictate to technology companies the pace of innovation for digital TV. For a large section of the technology market, companies would in effect be beholden to Hollywood and other content providers for approval. In an era where computers and the TV are fast converging this could have serious negative consequences in the future.

This proposal will also remove many of the current fair-use freedoms consumers currently. As I understand it, users will be restricted from making personal copies, play content on different machine, and make their own content.

Yet, with all these restrictions piracy will not end or even abate. there will always be people out there who can break the copy protection (just look at how quickly and easily copy protected songs were broken) and once a digital file is "broken" it can be copied millions of times. There's no shortage of outlets get these copies from.

I understand there is considerable pressure from certain members of Congress and content providers to get broadcast flag passed. That doesn't make it right, though. The restriction of fair use rights, and potential stifling of technological progress of this regulation for a copy-protection scheme of dubious value is a bad deal any way you look at it.